

James Percy Priest

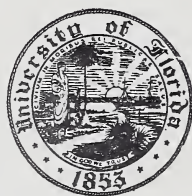
LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
TENNESSEE



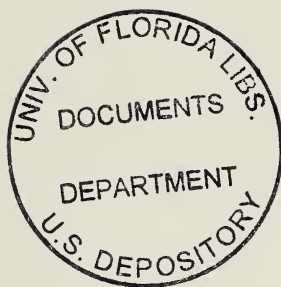
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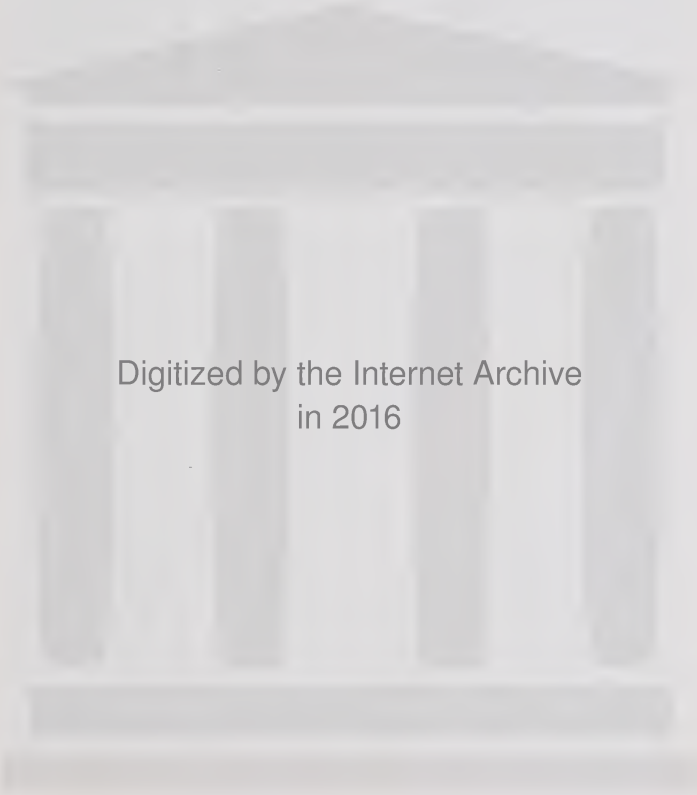


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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER
WITH REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

James Percy Priest

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
TENNESSEE



Eighty-fifth Congress
First Session



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Biography

JAMES PERCY PRIEST was born in Carters Creek, Maury County, Tenn., April 1, 1900; attended the public schools of Maury County, Tenn., Central High School, Columbia, Tenn., State Teachers' College, Murfreesboro, Tenn., George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; taught school in Culleoka, Tenn., 1920-26; member of the editorial staff of the Nashville Tennessean 1926-40; elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-seventh and to the seven succeeding Congresses and had been renominated in the 1956 primary election; served from January 3, 1941, until his death in Nashville, Tenn., October 12, 1956; interment in Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Memorial Services
for
James Percy Priest

Eighty-fifth Congress
First Session

Proceedings in the House

THURSDAY, January 3, 1957.

The Chaplain, Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Almighty and ever-blessed God, on this 1st day of the 85th Congress, we are earnestly beseeching Thee that we may always be humble in spirit as we daily approach Thee with prayers and petitions for strength and wisdom and our many needed blessings.

Inspire us with this same spirit of humility, not only in our approach unto Thee, but in every appraisal that we make of ourselves and our resources to discharge faithfully the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

We pray that in the sphere of human relationships and all our associations, as colleagues and comrades in a grand and glorious mission, we may manifest a spirit that is gracious and generous in its appreciations, magnanimous and sympathetic in its attitudes, considerate and charitable in its judgments.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all Government employees may be the humble and obedient servants of Thy divine will in the great adventure of mediating to mankind the principles of democracy and the spirit of peace and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the meek and lowly man of Galilee who hath taught us to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

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Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, a unanimous consent request will be presented for a day and time certain to be fixed to pay eulogy to our late colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST. Therefore, at this time I offer a resolution (H. Res. 16) for the present consideration of the House.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, a Representative from the State of Tennessee.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, I move that as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 53 minutes p. m.), pursuant to its previous order, the House adjourned until Saturday, January 5, 1957, at 12 o'clock noon.

MONDAY, January 14, 1957.

The SPEAKER. Under previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Cooper] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have permission to revise and extend their remarks in the Record during the course of the tribute being paid to Hon. PERCY PRIEST or later in the Appendix, if they so desire.

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, it was with very deep regret and profound sorrow that I announced to the House of Representatives on the opening day of this session of Congress that our dear friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee, the Honorable PERCY PRIEST, had passed away. He passed away in his home city of Nashville, Tenn., on October 12. He had an emergency operation and although he lived for several days after, finally succumbed.

Mr. PRIEST served with great credit and distinction as a Member of the House of Representatives for 16 years. For many years he occupied the very important and responsible position of Democratic whip of the House and made one of the greatest records in that important position that has ever been made.

He was a valuable member of the important Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and was chairman of that committee at the time he passed away.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to attend his funeral along with other Members of the Tennessee delegation and many other Members of the House in his home city of Nashville. I was impressed by the opening remark made by his pastor on that occasion when he said: "Representative PERCY PRIEST loved his Bible."

Mr. PRIEST was a great student of the Bible, one of the greatest I have ever known. He loved his church and discharged many important duties in all of the activities of his church. He was an officer of his church and taught a Sunday-school class. Regardless of how busy he might be he always found time to carry on his church activities.

Mr. PRIEST was a man who possessed the highest attributes of Christian character and all of the sterling qualities of manhood, a man of great ability, outstanding courage and demon-

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strated devotion to public service. Certainly he enjoyed the confidence, the respect and esteem of all of the Members of the House of Representatives to as great an extent as any man I have ever known. I feel confident that I express the true sentiment and feeling of all Members who knew him and served with him here when I convey to his dear wife and little daughter and members of his family our deepest sympathy in the time of their great bereavement.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to his successor in the House of Representatives, my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Loser].

Mr. LOSER. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to join with other Members of the House in paying tribute to the life and character of an outstanding Tennessean.

I was privileged to know PERCY PRIEST for more than two decades. I knew him as the managing editor of a great southern newspaper, the Nashville Tennessean; I knew him as a servant in the House of the Lord; a Sunday school teacher, a layman, active in all the activities of the church of his choice in Nashville, the Park Avenue Baptist Church; and I knew him as a statesman.

The people of the Fifth District of Tennessee had complete confidence in the honor and integrity of PERCY PRIEST. He had been elected to eight successive terms as the Representative of a great people in this House. He was the nominee of his party at the time of his passing.

He was a worthy successor to those distinguished Tennesseans who preceded him as the Representative of the Hermitage district.

I have the honor and the very great privilege to succeed him in this high office. I hope, and it is my prayer, that I may be able to measure up to the high standard of public service he has set before me.

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

I have a poem, by an unknown author, that seems to me to be descriptive of the life and character of PERCY PRIEST:

If I can do some good today,
If I can serve along life's way,
If I can something helpful say,
 Lord, show me how.

If I can right a human wrong,
If I can help to make someone strong,
If I can cheer with smile or song,
 Lord, show me how.

If I can aid one in distress,
If I can make a burden less,
If I can spread more happiness,
 Lord, show me how.

If I can do a kindly deed,
If I can help a soul in need,
If I can sow a fruitful seed,
 Lord, show me how.

If I can feed a hungry heart,
If I can give a better start,
If I can fill a nobler part,
 Lord, show me how.

—Unknown.

I offer my heartfelt sympathy to his widow and family.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. McCormack].

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, one returns to the Congress, this time the 85th, with a feeling of deep humility for the confidence the American people have shown for the Members of this House, and their faith in those who have been newly elected. But this thoughtful pride which fills the heart of so many of us today, is subdued by an overtone of sadness and bereavement. For one of the Americans who did so much through the years to help the House of Representatives win the confidence of the American people is not with us any more.

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Congressman J. PERCY PRIEST, my fellow Democrat from Tennessee, died in Nashville on October 12, 1956, and is not here to see this 85th Congress. For me his passing has a particularly personal impact not only because we were colleagues for many years, but because we fought, so to speak, in the same legislative battalions, and because, above all, J. PERCY PRIEST was my friend—not just my political co-partner—but what means so much more, my close and profoundly trusted collaborator.

When I think of the prestige which the Congress has achieved between 1940 when he began his first incumbency here and the present hour, I find it impossible to conceive of this honor, this dignity, this integrity, this strength, without thinking of the prominent service this American from Tennessee performed so patriotically for his district, for his State, for his party and, outstandingly, for his country.

If I had to define what it is that makes a citizen the very best kind of legislator I would provide the perfect definition by merely pronouncing the name: J. PERCY PRIEST. His background and his personality were deeply and unmistakably American. In this essential respect, this American identity, he was not unlike that other great Tennessean—Andrew Jackson—although their talents and their careers were of course dissimilar. His life as a patriot and a legislator cannot be evaluated without reference to this beloved State of his, without reference to his loyalty to the people he represented, and without reference to his Jacksonian convictions, and his complete understanding of the dedication he owed to the Nation as a unit.

The very place, names, and incidents of his life crackle with the language and the flora and fauna of America. He was born in a town in Tennessee called Carters Creek on April 1, 1900. In his day he had been a rural schoolteacher and never altogether surrendered his quest for an education. Among his Alma Maters are included the elementary schools in Maury County, the Central High School in Co-

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lumbia, the State Teachers College in Murfreesboro, the University of Tennessee, and the George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville. Perhaps the greatest of all the schools he attended, the school where his education proved enormously beneficial to his own growth and the growth of his country, was the Congress of the United States.

Another school that explains something of the breadth of his thinking, the tolerance, the understanding, the passion for facts and the understanding that motivated him, was his career as a first-rate newspaperman. From 1926 until 1940—14 years—he was on the staff of the Nashville Tennessean. One can only guess how much his career as a country teacher, as a formally well-educated American, as a newsman, contributed to the success he enjoyed in this House as one of its most distinguished legislators and legislative leaders.

When he took his seat for the first time in this House with the 77th Congress in January of 1941 the world was already on fire. The district he represented was the sixth, or Davidson County, which included the State capital, and while he never for an instant forgot his district or his State, his conception of his role encompassed the vast problems agitating the United States and the world in that dramatic and tragic hour. It must be a divine Providence that in crisis sends men like Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt to the White House, and men like PERCY PRIEST to the legislative branch.

This great man from Tennessee threw himself totally into the maelstrom and helped with every ounce of his individual strength and his leadership, to give legislative lucidity, order, and direction to the management of the great affairs that World War II developed upon the United States. Here was a strong right arm in the Nation's hour of need, an arm that contributed to unity, to solidarity to winning the war.

The imagination and the force, the genius for innovation in a perilously changing world, are illustrated by Congress-

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man PRIEST's seizure of the right legislative weapons with which to meet the cascading series of national dangers. For example, he not only supported the war President on foreign policy, but also gave his vote to the selective service bill, the fifty-dollar-pay for servicemen, the Federal vote for soldiers, price control, and the Government reorganization bill.

There is a vast body of further legislation that illustrates the courageous and independent temper of his mind and the wisdom which for the most part, many of us will feel, supported the soundness of his views. When I speak of the wisdom of his thinking I have in mind, among other decisions, his vote with the administration on the mutual defense assistance legislation, and his votes and support for the Korean aid act, the Marshall plan extension, and the point 4 program. In a position of leadership, as I can well testify, he recognized the meaning and the weight of his responsibility.

PERCY PRIEST was a progressive and a humane legislator. As an example, it was he who guided the National Mental Health Act through Congress in 1946. Here was the first major, all-out, Federally-backed attack on one of the worst scourges—mental illness—afflicting mankind in our time.

Congressman PRIEST was majority whip of the House from 1949 to 1950. He could have continued in that post when his party regained control of Congress in 1953. But it was characteristic of him to decline reappointment on the ground that it would distract his attention from his duties as chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. This was the chairmanship he held at the time of his death. I recall also his judicial poise when in 1946 he served as chairman of the House Campaign Expenditures Committee investigating alleged violations of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

Here again principle, conviction, tolerance dominated the position he took. What mattered to him was the underlying law of the land and our philosophy of government and

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their equal application to all groups in our country. The New York Herald Tribune spoke of the Priest committee as frank and energetic. The inquiry sought information without bias or partisanship from such a divergent miscellany of factions as, for example, industry, labor, the Communist Party, and the Ku Klux Klan. But, as the Herald Tribune editorial said, the investigation was, I repeat, both frank and energetic. PERCY PRIEST was like that. The current concentration of interest upon the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the demand for sharper scrutiny, the drive for reform, certainly stem in large part from Congressman PRIEST's crusade against what he called the act's loopholes and against what the committee reported were—I quote—"widespread violations."

But the considerable talents and energy of PERCY PRIEST were not absorbed merely with the exposure of wrong and the repair of legislative damage. As in the case of the National Mental Health Act, which I have already mentioned, he gave wholly of himself in putting through the National Science Foundation when he served as chairman of a subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. This Foundation, as you know, is an independent Government agency designed to make surveys of scientific needs. Through grants and fellowships it concentrates research projects in appropriate fields. It had the firm support of President Truman and passed both Houses in 1950. A budget of \$15 million a year has since been authorized. I wish it were possible to estimate, as with a farm surplus or a figure in the budget, what inestimable results have already flowed from this federally financed attack on human suffering, on disease, and on death. Here again posterity will feel the benefit of the heart and the hand of PERCY PRIEST's leadership working within the framework of a Government created to serve the people.

PERCY PRIEST was the definition incarnate of the good legislator. I think his careers proves that this is because he

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exemplified the complete American. He was the complete American in terms of our own time. His beginnings were humble but not impoverished and his superior education reflected the progress of Tennessee and our country. This country schoolteacher, this newspaperman, this politician and legislator, this leader, had a mind and a heart deeply anchored in religious principle. He was, as a person, the product of democracy. That means that from the very nature of his environment through his 56 years he was independent and free. He spoke his mind. He acted finally on his own decision. He was a leader by virtue of merit and accomplishment. All these qualities were inherent in his identity as an individual; as much a part of his nature as the mechanism of walking.

PERCY PRIEST was a great man. He was also a good man.

Those of us who had the honor and pleasure of knowing PERCY PRIEST will always treasure his memory.

To Mrs. Priest I extend my deep sympathy in her great loss and sorrow.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Arends].

Mr. ARENDS. Mr. Speaker, one of the great privileges of serving in the Congress is being brought into association with men and women, from all walks of life and all sections of the country, who by their ideas, their ideals, and their conduct enrich your mind and heart for better living. Each in his own way leaves his impression upon the others, like "foot-prints on the sands of time."

To have known and to have worked with PERCY PRIEST has indeed enriched my life. As the Republican whip, he was for many years my counterpart for the other side of the aisle. On many occasions we vigorously opposed each other on issues. But always he was my friend, and I say that with pride beyond measure.

At no time have I been associated with any man with higher ideals. In everything he did, in everything he said, he was

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motivated solely by the highest principles. He was not only a man of ability, serving with distinction as his party whip and subsequently as chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. He was a man whose every word and every act expressed his deep love for his fellowmen and understanding of their individual problems, seeking always to be helpful.

PERCY PRIEST was an inspiration to me. He will always be. If I were to describe him in one sentence I would say he was the outstanding example of a Christian gentleman. He is no longer with us, but his influence upon us for Christian living will be ever upon us.

There is a phrase in an old hymn which begins: "Are you ready, said the Master?" I know no one who could more truthfully say, "I am ready" than my dear friend, PERCY PRIEST.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to his wife and daughter. I share their loss more than any words can possibly express.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Evins].

Mr. EVINS. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of our late colleague and friend, Congressman J. PERCY PRIEST, Tennessee and the Nation have lost one of their most useful public officials and this House, one of our most beloved and devoted Members.

As one who has known PERCY PRIEST for many years—before he came to the Congress—and who has served with him here for the past several years, I have lost a warm, personal friend.

The life of PERCY PRIEST was one truly dedicated to the public interest.

During the recess of the Congress, it was my privilege to speak last fall at Nashville in Congressman PRIEST's district, at a time when PERCY was hospitalized, and I am happy that I was able to pay a tribute to him among his constituents during his lifetime. Later, I visited with PERCY at the Mid-

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State Baptist Hospital, in Nashville. He had been listening to the World Series baseball game and his condition, at the time, was considered much improved. His untimely passing therefore was certainly unexpected and a great shock to everyone.

As one of the members of the committee attending his services, I must say that I have never witnessed such an outpouring of friends and floral expressions of sympathy as was witnessed at Nashville on this occasion. The tributes to his lifework, and his many worthwhile services, poured out from a host of friends because PERCY was a friend of all.

These eulogies pointed out to everyone what we, his colleagues, knew—that PERCY PRIEST was a man of outstanding ability, unusual industry, and possessed of a warm and friendly personality. He loved his fellow man.

Among the pages of newspaper tributes to his life and memory ran one note that was outstanding which characterized PERCY PRIEST—and that was—he was a Christian gentleman—this, I am sure, was as PERCY PRIEST would have liked it for he was a devout man who lived by the Golden Rule and was motivated only by the highest principles. He had a deep and abiding faith in the goodness of the Supreme Architect and Ruler of the Universe and he endeavored to walk daily in His footsteps. I know of no man who had a more conscientious regard for the feeling of his fellow Members or who manifested a higher devotion to duty as a Representative in Congress than did Representative PRIEST, of Tennessee.

His outstanding record in this body and his service to Tennessee and the Nation earned for him the respect and admiration of all who knew him, and his loss will be felt for many years to come.

As a Member of Congress he served with the highest distinction as chairman of the great Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. His achievements were many and remarkable. Perhaps no layman or legislator has devoted so much time and energy to the betterment of the Nation's

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health than did PERCY PRIEST during the time he served as chairman of this committee.

There are many laws on the statute books today for the improvement of the health and welfare of our citizens because of the sponsorship and the passage of legislation by Mr. PRIEST. The improvement of the health of the citizens of this Nation burned brightly in Congressman PRIEST's heart. He wore his mantle as chairman of his committee with respect and distinction.

As a leader who rose high in the councils of his party—the Democratic Party—he served as whip of the House for a number of years and, as always, devoted himself faithfully to the duties of his office. As assistant leader he rendered many personal kindnesses, favors, and services to his colleagues daily. His record in this post was exemplary indeed.

As has been pointed out, prior to his coming to Congress, he distinguished himself as a public-school teacher and as editor of one of the truly great newspapers of this Nation—the Nashville Tennessean. In his direction of this great journal, PERCY PRIEST utilized the wonderful human qualities which he later brought to us in the Congress. He was a friendly and kindly man who drew to him men from every walk of life—men who were duly impressed by his quiet and genial manner. There was nothing about him or his personality that was sham or imitation. Everything he did was characterized by a deep respect for his fellow-man, which to him meant preserving as much liberty as possible for those whose lives we share.

I shall always remember PERCY PRIEST as a man of personal merit and rare individual charm whose sincere, Christian character served as a guiding light of inspiration. The memory of his deep principles and high resolutions will always be fresh in the minds of those who were privileged to serve with him in the Congress.

While we, his friends, are saddened by his passing, our sadness may be lightened by happy reflections of his achieve-

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ments and accomplishments—they were many—accomplishments of trust and confidence kept, deeds of unselfish public service and consecrated devotion to high ideals and statesmanship.

PERCY PRIEST fought for a better America, never pausing to rest on past laurels. He was a leader among leaders and we can certainly say in all candor that our country is a better place in which to live because PERCY PRIEST lived and served so faithfully and so well.

With the poet we can say—

The finest tribute we can pay
Unto our beloved friend today
Is not a rose wreath, white and red
In memory of the blood he shed
It is to stand for principles as warriors true
To carry on the work he tried to do
It is to hold high the flag of freedom as did he
To keep our country strong and free
That freedom's flag shall bear no smear or stain
And free men wear no tyrant's chain.

To his lovely wife, Mildred, and little daughter, Miss Harriet, and other members of his family I extend my most sincere sympathy in the great loss which they have sustained.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished former majority leader of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Halleck].

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, in remembering our departed colleague there always seems to be a single trait that we recall above all others.

My memory of PERCY PRIEST will always be that he was one of the gentlest men I have ever known. With that gentleness of character went a kindness that I feel certain touched the lives of all who knew him.

I think PERCY PRIEST was a man incapable of bitterness or ill will toward any of his fellow men and I know of no Member who enjoyed more widespread affection among the membership than he.

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We knew him as a public servant of unquestioned integrity, dedicated to his responsibilities.

PERCY PRIEST was a credit to the district he so ably represented in the House; a credit to the great State of Tennessee, and, may I say, a credit to the Congress of the United States.

It is not possible to fully assess the impact of his influence for good that marked the career of PERCY PRIEST in the Congress.

But all of us who knew him well, and worked with him through the years, have a conviction, I am sure, that we ourselves are the better men for having witnessed the nobility of his character.

The world can ill afford to lose men of his caliber; we will never have enough of such people among us.

With the many others who shall miss him so much, I join in expressing my deep sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. Albert].

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, the life and service of PERCY PRIEST cannot be discussed without using superlatives. Even these are inadequate. In his personal life and in his public service he was in all respects outstanding.

Of all the men I have ever known in and out of Congress, I have never known any man who was more beloved by those who knew him than PERCY PRIEST. He had rare and abundant qualities which won the affection of all his fellow men.

He was good; he was kind; he was fair; he was just; he was gentle. In many respects he was the most thoughtful and considerate person I ever knew. He always gave the benefit of the doubt to the other fellow.

PERCY PRIEST was intelligent. He was one of the ablest Members of the House. With all his gentle qualities, he was a man of tremendous courage and unwavering devotion to public service.

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PERCY PRIEST was a Christian gentleman. He was devoted both to his fellow man and his Creator. He was a man of deep religious convictions.

In my opinion, PERCY PRIEST was one of the great Congressmen of our generation. He preceded me as Democratic whip of the House, in which capacity he served with rare distinction. During the 84th Congress he was my constant adviser. I leaned upon him heavily. I shall miss his wise and generous counsel. I loved PERCY PRIEST. He was indeed my friend.

The great service which PERCY performed in the field of public health and elsewhere, first as a member and later as chairman of the great Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, will remain a monument to him for generations to come.

PERCY lived the full life. Here, Mr. Speaker, was a great soul. Here was a noble man.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished former chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the present ranking minority Member, who attended Mr. PRIEST's funeral services with us in Nashville, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. Wolverton].

Mr. WOLVERTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a very real sense of inadequacy that I seek to express in words my regard for our departed colleague, the Honorable PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee, and the high esteem in which he was held by all who knew him.

During the time that he served in the Congress of the United States he labored faithfully and well. His interest in the welfare of the constituency he had the honor to represent was exemplary and outstanding. Interested though he was at all times in the welfare of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, which he had been privileged to serve continuously from the time of his election, November 5, 1940, until his decease, yet, he also had a wider

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vision that enabled him to see and understand problems of national and international significance. At all times he brought to the solution of domestic and world problems a strong sense of obligation to promote the welfare of the people. He loved people. He was conscious of their needs and his responsibility to them.

The life that was lived by PERCY PRIEST has left an indelible impression upon all who had the privilege of association with him. This was made manifest not only by expressions of his colleagues in the Congress of the United States, but, was particularly manifest in large, tremendously large, number of citizens of Nashville, Tenn., his home city, at the time of the burial services in that city. The church was crowded to the doors, and the streets were lined with sorrowing constituents who were unable to gain admittance because of the crowded conditions. At the cemetery likewise great crowds were gathered to pay their last tribute to this great man who was loved by all who knew him. It has made a lasting impression upon me. The memory of this outpouring of sorrowing friends will ever remain vividly before me as an unmistakable sign of the deep and sincere regard in which PERCY PRIEST was held by those who had known him intimately in his private as well as his public life.

In an hour such as this, it is appropriate to pay tribute to him for the fine service he rendered in the Congress. It was always characterized by a high degree of sincerity. In the work of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, of which he was chairman, time and again, in fact, continuously, he gave evidence by word and deed of his great interest in the human side of the question. This was particularly evident in the great interest he took in all matters pertaining to the health of our people. His contribution to every phase of the jurisdiction of the committee dealing with health problems will ever stand forth as a tribute to his interest in the welfare of his fellow man. There is much that could be said in this respect, and, also with respect to

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his interest in all the other important subjects that form the legislative jurisdiction of this great committee of the House, but, the brevity of time prevents our dealing with these as fully as their importance would justify.

In conclusion of my personal remarks, may I also pay tribute to PERCY PRIEST as a Christian gentleman. In every sense of the word he was truly a Christian gentleman. At all times, in every activity and contact of his life, he exhibited those attributes that enables the characterization—"Christian gentleman"—to be applied to him with truth and honesty. Never did he make outward display by spoken words of his deeply religious inner self, but, without words it was so real that it was ever manifest in his attitude toward his colleagues in the House and to his fellow man in general. I know of no higher tribute that can be paid to him at this time than to say PERCY PRIEST was a "Christian gentleman."

I extend to his good wife and the little daughter, both of whom he loved so greatly and both of whom loved him so dearly, and to the other members of his family, my deep and sincere sympathy. In their hours of bereavement it must be comforting to them to know that he left such a host of sorrowing friends, and, died in a faith that gives assurance of life everlasting.

BIOGRAPHY

JAMES PERCY PRIEST, Democrat, of Nashville; born at Carters Creek, Tenn., April 1, 1900, the son of Harriet Hastings and George Madison Priest; attended the public schools in Maury County, Tenn., and Central High School, Columbia, Tenn.; attended State Teachers College at Murfreesboro, Tenn., George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; taught school in Tennessee from 1920 until May 1926; member of editorial staff of the Nashville Tennessean from May 1926 until September 1940; a Baptist, a Mason, and a member of the Civitan Club, National Press Club, and Elks Club; Shriner; married Miss Mildred Webster Noland on February 14, 1947; one daughter, Harriet Frances; was elected November 5, 1940, to the 77th Congress; reelected to the 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82d, and 83d, and

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84th Congresses as Representative from the 5th District of Tennessee, and at the time of his decease was chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Extracts from the magazine *Current Biography*, September 1950 issue, gives an interesting summary of the legislative activities of J. PERCY PRIEST, as follows:

An analysis of Congressman PRIEST's voting record made by the Congressional Quarterly in 1945, showed that he had voted with the Roosevelt administration on about 85 percent of the measures supporting the President in foreign policy, the selective service bill, \$50 pay for servicemen (1941), the rescind salary limit (1943), the Federal vote for soldiers (1944), price control, and the Government reorganization bill. He was among the "nays" on the Smith-Connally Act veto, on the override of the tax bill veto (1944), freezing of social security taxes, and on a permanent Un-American Activities Committee.

In 1940 PRIEST voted against abolishing OPA, against nondiscrimination (amendment to H. R. 3370) on school-lunch program, but supported Federal aid for the program, against the passage of the tidewater land bill over President Truman's veto, and shelving the atomic energy control bill. He was with the "yeas" on draft extension, the passage of the Case labor bill over the President's veto, the passage of the first price-control bill over the President's veto, full employment bill, housing subsidies, and the President's strike-control bill. In the 80th Congress the Tennessean, in circumstances of a Republican majority in Congress, swung his allegiance closer to his party's line, though he voted for the passage of the Taft-Hartley labor bill over the President's veto. After becoming Democratic whip in January 1949, PRIEST supported all major measures of Truman's Fair Deal program with the exception of the anti-poll tax bill and the repeal of the Taft-Hartley labor law. He voted with the administration on the mutual defense assistance legislation, the Korean Aid Act, the Marshall plan extension, and the point 4 program.

One of the first bills framed by the Tennessean proposed "mandatory civilian war service for draft-deferred men." In 1943 PRIEST authorized one of several resolutions introduced in Congress for a constitutional amendment on treaty power. The Congressional Digest (October 1943) quoted him as saying it was "a paradoxical procedure wherein a majority of both Houses could begin a war but in which two-thirds of one body alone can officially end

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it. * * * If we can trust a body to declare war," argued PRIEST, "can we not with equal * * * wisdom * * * trust it to ratify a peace treaty?"

Guiding the National Mental Health Act through Congress in 1946, PRIEST shared credit with Senator Claude Pepper for its passing. Called an epochal measure by PM's Albert Deutsch, it provided for a nationwide attack on the problem of mental diseases, which previously had been handled on a State or local level. The measure authorized appropriations for a National Mental Health Institute (under the administration of the United States Public Health Service) to serve as a coordinating center for research on mental diseases. Among other provisions were Federal grants-in-aid for psychiatric research in universities, hospitals, and other institutions, and to help finance the training of psychiatrists and other personnel needed to treat mental diseases.

A supporter of the administration's program for Federal aid to education, Congressman PRIEST, a Baptist, in July 1949 coauthored with Representative John W. McCormack, a Catholic, a bill as a compromise to Representative Graham A. Barden's bill providing Federal aid to States for schools, exclusive of parochial and private schools. It was hoped that the Priest-McCormack bill, which called for \$35 million a year from Federal funds to be spent on health aid to all schools—public, parochial, and private—would appease the opponents of the major program. The Washington Post, pointing out that it was not a substitute for the aid-to-education program, called it a health bill, since it would be concerned with school lunches and children's health rather than contribute directly to school systems.

In 1946 PRIEST was chairman of the House Campaign Expenditures Committee investigating alleged violations of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. (Among those questioned at public hearings in the investigations were labor and industry groups, the Communist Party, the Ku Klux Klan.) The committee, whose investigation was praised by the New York Herald Tribune as frank and energetic, reported widespread violations of the act, which PRIEST said was full of loopholes, and recommended it be either more vigorously enforced or repealed. Under PRIEST's chairmanship, this committee investigated also alleged violations of the election laws in 1946 during the Kansas City (Mo.) Democratic primary and in New York City's 18th Congressional District. As chairman of a subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee—to which he was appointed in 1943—PRIEST handled the bill which proposed the establishment of a National

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Science Foundation, an independent Government agency designed to make surveys of scientific needs and, through grants and fellowships, concentrate research projects in appropriate fields. Proposed first in 1946—repeatedly urged upon Congress by President Truman—the bill, after many delays, was passed by both Houses in the spring of 1950, with security provisions inserted by the House to insure loyalty of all workers in the Foundation. Expenditure in 1951 for its establishment in that year was set at \$500,000, and a future budget of \$15 million per year was authorized.

In January 1949 the Congressman from Tennessee was designated House Democratic whip in the 81st Congress. Assessing the temper of this Democrat-controlled Congress which yet failed to enact many of the measures of President Truman's Fair Deal program, Craig Thompson, in a Collier's article—August 27, 1949—quoted PRIEST as saying: "This is the most independent-minded bunch of Representatives in my time. Lots of them are war veterans who can't be stampeded. They work hard, study the bills, and make up their own minds." The House Democratic whip suggested in the summer of 1950 that, because of world developments, Secretary of State Acheson and Secretary of Defense Johnson resign in the interest of national unity, a feeling opposed by President Truman.

As evidence of the high regard in which PERCY PRIEST was held by departments of Government with which he had contact as member and chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, I present the following resolution adopted by the Interstate Commerce Commission October 15, 1956:

At a general session of the Interstate Commerce Commission held at its office in Washington, D. C., on the 15th day of October, A. D. 1956—present, Anthony F. Apraia (Chairman), Commissioners Richard F. Mitchell, Owen Clarke, Howard G. Freas, Kenneth H. Tuggle, John H. Winchell, Everett Hutchinson, Rupert L. Murphy, Robert W. Minor, Laurence K. Walrath, Donald P. McPherson, Jr.—it was unanimously voted that the following resolution be entered upon the minutes of the Commission, and that suitable copies thereof be prepared and sent to Mrs. J. Percy Priest, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to members of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce:

"With profound regret and a deep sense of personal loss, we record the death of the Honorable J. PERCY PRIEST at Nashville, Tenn., on October 12, 1956. As chairman of the Committee on

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Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, Mr. PRIEST was in close touch with legislative matters affecting the Interstate Commerce Commission. We came to know him as a devoted public servant with a thorough knowledge and sympathetic understanding of our problems. Unfailing patience, fairness, and helpfulness characterized his every action. With that rarest of virtues, humility, his friendliness and kindness won our warm affection and abiding regard.

"Part of his eminent record of achievement has been a notable contribution to transportation. We deplore his untimely death as a great loss, not only to the Interstate Commerce Commission but to the Nation."

Attest:

HAROLD D. MCCOY, *Secretary.*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. O'Hara].

Mr. O'HARA of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is emotionally disturbing to us who have been so closely associated with PERCY PRIEST to take part in these memorial services today.

PERCY was elected to the 77th Congress and both of us were assigned in the 78th Congress to service on the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. In the 84th Congress PERCY became chairman of that great committee.

We were close personal friends, and no person I know was more kindly and thoughtful and courteous to everyone in the House than was PERCY PRIEST. I am personally grateful to him for the many acts of kindness he extended to me.

The last time I saw PERCY he stopped to visit me at my home where I had been confined by reason of illness. No one was more saddened by his death than I was.

It is seldom that it could be said of one who held a position of responsibility such as whip of his party organization or as chairman of a great committee that a person charged with such responsibilities would not incur some enmity under the two-party system, but I think it could be honestly and fairly said that PERCY had no enemies. His kind and generous Christian spirit never permitted him to speak or deal other than upon the highest plane.

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With the multitude of responsibilities which were his, he never overlooked the fact that his colleagues were human beings sharing also grave responsibilities.

He was devoted to his country, to his family, and to his church. To his wife, and daughter, Harriet Frances, I extend my deepest sympathy.

The Fifth District of Tennessee and Tennessee have lost an able and distinguished representative, the country has lost a loyal, patriotic son, and an able and effective legislator, and I have lost a very dear and good friend.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Boggs].

Mr. BOGGS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join with my colleagues in paying a brief tribute to a great American. As my distinguished friend from Minnesota [Mr. O'Hara] said, I, too had the experience of coming here with PERCY PRIEST some years ago. I could not agree more with his appraisal of the man, particularly his friendship and love for all of the Members of this body. I know that PERCY had no enemies, because he devoted himself not only to the welfare of this great country of ours, but also to the welfare of his fellow man and the welfare of those who served with him here in the House.

He had many qualities. I think one that all of us will agree upon was that in every sense of the word he was a gentleman and he was genuine. There was not one particle of the dagog in PERCY PRIEST. He was genuine in his friendship; he was genuine in his convictions; he was genuine in his patriotism, his loyalty, and his Christianity.

I had the good fortune of having my office midway between the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee room and PERCY PRIEST's office on the third floor of the new House Office Building. Each day as he diligently went to his meetings and as diligently returned to his office, I would almost invariably have a visit with him. Believe me, Mr. Speaker,

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I miss those visits this year. I know that all of us who have had the rare good fortune of enjoying the warmth of his friendship, the pleasantness of his personality, the inspiration of his character share with his lovely wife and that beautiful child the great loss in the passing of PERCY PRIEST.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maine [Mr. Hale].

Mr. HALE. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of which I have been a member for the past 10 years has sustained some cruel losses since the adjournment of the 84th Congress. Six of the ten senior members of our committee have been taken from us, two by death.

Last Thursday we spoke in this Chamber of the loss of Carl Hinshaw who was certainly one of the ablest, most experienced and valuable of our members. Today we speak of the chairman of our committee through the life of the 84th Congress, PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee, who died suddenly last October. Everybody on the committee was completely devoted to PERCY. The committee could not have had a better chairman. He was active, zealous, tireless and most high minded in the discharge of this responsibilities as a legislator and as a committee chairman.

PERCY PRIEST had a remarkable mind. He was not a lawyer and the legal profession suffered on that account. He had a remarkable power of concise and lucid statement, a power that would do credit to any lawyer. I well remember his expounding the natural-gas bill before the Committee on Rules. This was a complicated, technical, and highly controversial piece of legislation. PERCY's statement on the bill was a model which might have inspired the envy of any committee chairman. I can remember hearing him on other bills before the Rules Committee. I never knew him to do a job that I thought was anything less than superlative. His work for public health legislation was a major contribution

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to the Nation's welfare. And I mention only one of the many fields of his legislative service. The Congress and the Nation suffer a heavy loss in the death of a man like PERCY PRIEST. His personal qualities could not have been more lovable. He was devoted to his friends. Though he was a loyal Democrat he never let partisanship enter into his personal relations, a fact which I think will be acknowledged by everyone who served on the committee.

I extend to Mrs. Priest and his young daughter my utmost sympathy.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished successor of Mr. PRIEST, as chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. Harris].

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad and heavy heart that I join with my colleagues in an effort to express a sincere tribute and a deep feeling of our respect and esteem to the fine and outstanding Christian life and splendid character, a feeling toward his fellow man, the public service rendered to his people and his country, and the peace and understanding for the welfare of mankind, of our departed colleague and good friend, the Honorable PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee.

It was several hours after he slipped from this world into that external life beyond that I learned of his passing. I had been away for a couple of days and on arrival at my home that morning, I was greeted by my wife with the sad message, which grieved me beyond expression.

I do not suppose anyone was more closely identified and associated with PERCY than I, outside of his own family and the Tennessee delegation. We came to Congress at the same time, 16 years ago. We had adjoining offices in the Old Building. We became good friends and neighbors.

We were assigned to the great Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce at the same time, and sat side by side and worked together on the committee for 14 years. We

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worked together on other committees and during the time that he was Democratic whip, he called on me as one of his assistants.

For the last 2 years I served under him as chairman of our committee. We were together in many other ways, in social life, civic, and religious activities.

We were very close friends and I learned to love and respect PERCY for what he was and what he did. I shall ever cherish his friendship.

And yet, even though he has passed on from us, we cannot think of him as dead. We think of him being here with us now:

It is just a change from partial into fuller life; a grand relief from this world's cares, eternal peace succeeding strife.

It is not for us to understand the mysteries of life, no more than we can explain the beautiful fragrance of the flower under the influence of sunshine and shower. There is no limit to the power of the Almighty.

When I think of PERCY, I think of the living message, as given to us by one of the great prophets:

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

For as the rain cometh down and the snow from Heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth below you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

PERCY PRIEST was a good man of deep conviction. He was steeped in the finest traditions of a truly great American.

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He possessed the same kind of philosophy and thoughts as contained in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and even more so, the Holy Bible.

PERCY was a man of abiding faith as well as deep conviction. As I have observed him during all of these years, never has he retreated from what he believed was right and best for his people and for his country. Never has he showed impatience or the lack of faith in his fellow man. He was always tolerant, humble, and patient, but deeply imbued with the ideals and principles which have made this country great. He was ever vigilant for the welfare of his country and of people.

PERCY PRIEST was truly a Christian man with deep religious ties. In all of his public service, in his everyday life, in his dealing with his fellow man, he demonstrated the true character of a man steeped in the Christian principles in the life of Christ and belief in his God.

PERCY was devoted to his family. He was a man of deep family ties. I remember when he and Mildred were joined together for a beautiful home. He believed that the strength of America, of this great country of ours is in our home life, a Christian environment that instills in us character, faith, and confidence.

Many years ago I came to the conclusion that when I shall come to the end of what we call the journey of life, and I shall look back on those things that I cherish most, they will be the warm, personal friendships that I have made while traveling along this journey of life.

These were the words of our departed friend, PERCY PRIEST. So expressive of him and in the kind of a friend and public servant we had in him. He often quoted the Chambered Nautilus, by Oliver Wendell Holmes. He said it had been of inestimable inspiration to him in all the years since first he learned the lines in grammar school. He selected it for his

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contribution to the Congressional Anthology, and certainly would be most appropriate to quote here:

Thanks for the heavenly message brought by thee,
Child of the wandering sea,
Cast from her lap, forlorn.
From thy dead lips a clearer note is born
Than ever Triton blew from wreathed horn,
While on mine ear it rings,
Through the deep caves of thought I hear a voice that sings:
Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll.
Leave thy low-vaulted past,
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.

This Congress has lost one of its most sincere and valuable Members. We have lost a most devoted friend. Tennessee and our country have lost one of its most able and outstanding true public servants. As my other colleagues, I want to express my deepest sympathy to his beloved wife and daughter.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. Chenoweth].

Mr. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to PERCY PRIEST. I was greatly shocked and saddened when I heard of his untimely passing. PERCY PRIEST and I came to the House together. I soon recognized his admirable qualities and formed a very high opinion of him. As the years went by I realized more and more that he was an outstanding Member of this body, and truly a great American. We formed a close personal friendship, and I always enjoyed a visit with him. I had the great pleasure of serving with him on the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce for 2 years, and I know of the valuable contribution he made to the deliberations of that very important committee. I have never met a more delightful per-

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son, a finer Christian gentleman, in or out of the House of Representatives, than PERCY PRIEST. I know of no man who was more devoted and consecrated to his church. All of us are aware of the valuable contribution he made to the religious and spiritual life of Washington. He never failed to respond to calls made upon him, and I am sure at times at great personal sacrifice. I was indeed happy and proud to have PERCY PRIEST as a friend. I shall always retain happy memories of our association together, and my life has been enriched because I knew PERCY PRIEST. I extend my deep personal sympathy to his wife and the other members of his family.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Frazier].

Mr. FRAZIER. Mr. Speaker, it was with profound sorrow that I learned of the death of our beloved colleague, PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee.

For 16 years he had served in this body as the Representative from the Hermitage district of Tennessee. During his long and distinguished career, he had endeared himself to the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle.

As Democratic whip of the House he was most efficient in the performance of the arduous duties of that office and most helpful to all the Members.

As chairman of the important Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, he was fair and considerate. He was an experienced and wise legislator and a most effective and convincing speaker. He will long be missed by his colleagues. I do not believe any man ever served in the House who was more universally respected and loved.

Above all he was a grand Christian gentleman; a devoted husband and father.

He served his Nation, his State, and his district with great distinction, and his wise counsel will long be missed in this body.

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My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his beloved wife and daughter and to his constituents whom he served so faithfully.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Baker].

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I, too, loved PERCY PRIEST. Everyone who knew him loved him. When I first became a member of this body, 6 years ago, one of the very first who offered counsel and friendship to me, a member of the opposite party, was PERCY PRIEST. Many times thereafter over the 6 years I would cross the aisle and sit with PERCY and discuss legislation and ask his views. And I am proud to say that on several occasions he crossed the aisle to the Republican side and asked my advice on certain pending legislation. To me, that was a high tribute.

Many times I rode with him back and forth to work. Many times we discussed problems that had nothing whatever to do with Tennessee.

I know PERCY PRIEST today is in heaven with his Creator. There can be no question about that. He was a devout Christian gentleman and a statesman of the highest order. This Chamber does not seem the same to me without PERCY PRIEST. It is hard for me to realize that he is not here.

I attended his funeral. There were thousands and thousands of people there at the cemetery on a cold day. They stood for hours, and apparently had been standing there for hours before we got there from downtown.

There are no words in the English language that can fully state what a great man PERCY PRIEST was. He was humble. He was sincere. He was just. He was tolerant. I am proud to say that I numbered him among my dear friends.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his widow and daughter and the other members of his family.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. Matthews].

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Mr. MATTHEWS. Mr. Speaker, I should like to associate myself with my colleagues who have talked so eloquently and so feelingly in the views they expressed about our beloved friend, PERCY PRIEST. I am sorry that the new Members of Congress will not have the opportunity of meeting this great man.

Before I came to Congress I read a book by a great columnist in America, and among other things he said that the most popular man in Congress was PERCY PRIEST of Tennessee. It was not the kind that is gained easily, it was the kind of popularity that was deserved.

PERCY PRIEST, in my opinion, was a great statesman. He was a true liberal. Sometimes I wonder if we really understand what the word "liberal" means. If my understanding is correct, it goes back to the British Parliament when a liberal was conceived to be one who did that which was right, who was not concerned about the political expediency of the moment.

In my short time in Congress I know of no Member of this great body who tried more earnestly to do that which was right than did PERCY PRIEST. He was a great statesman. He was a great father. He was a loving husband. I hesitate to mention this, because I do not want to be accused of professional piety, but I knew him best as a member of our prayer group that meets weekly in the Vandenberg Room over in the Senate. There are 30 to 40 of us that meet there every week. Sometimes we have 50 or 60. PERCY PRIEST was one of the most consecrated members of that little group.

I remember one of the fine talks that PERCY made to that group, and this was the idea that he gave us. He said,

Quite frequently when I worry about my own problems I notice people who are passing me and I see by the expressions on their faces that their problems are much greater than mine, so I have tried to make it the rule of my life as I come to work each day to pray for the people that I pass.

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So certainly a man like PERCY PRIEST will be missed by all of us. I join with my colleagues in expressing my deepest sympathy to his loved ones, and reiterate the statement made by the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Baker], "I know that PERCY PRIEST is in heaven with the Almighty God who created him."

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Scott].

Mr. SCOTT of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the passing of few Members has drawn such deep and heartfelt tribute as the loss of our friend and colleague PERCY PRIEST. He and I came to Congress together on the same day. It was my privilege to serve with him for some years on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Like all the rest of us, I had frequent opportunities to visit with him, to be warmed by his personality, to feel a little bit better after a chance meeting and to recognize the qualities of friendship, personality, character, and piety which the presence of PERCY PRIEST embodied for all of us.

The tributes here have touched on his capacity for friendship, on the fact that he had, peculiarly in a body where controversy is so rife, such a capacity for friendship that he was one of whom it could be said he had no enemies.

In his service to the Nation, in connection with the national health bills, the National Science Foundation, and the myriad other good, substantial, and important contributions of his mind and heart, his name and his works will live forever as a Member of the Congress who accomplished much.

He loved his fellow man, he was loved by him, and above all, he was one of whom it could be said that he never knew a stranger.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished and beloved Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Rayburn].

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Mr. RAYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I believe, with the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Baker], that it is almost impossible for me to think of the House of Representatives without thinking of PERCY PRIEST. I have heard a good many of these remarks here this afternoon, and I do not think I have ever heard in all of the talks I have heard about departed Members that there were more people who knew a man than those who knew PERCY PRIEST, really knew him. His was a gentle soul, yet a great soul. I remember when we were in some trouble here about selecting a whip of the House of Representatives. The gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. McCormack] and I sat down and went over the names of many people. When we came to the name of PERCY PRIEST we both said, "That is the man. He will do a man-sized job in a difficult position, and many times in a position that may irritate people, but he will do a great job. He will never offend anybody and nobody will dislike PERCY PRIEST because he comes and asks him to do something." I have said myself, and I have heard it echoed here this afternoon, that I believe PERCY PRIEST was the best-loved man in the House of Representatives of all the 435 Members—and he deserved it because he had the elements in him of patriotism, love of mankind, and devotion to its destiny. He represented one of the most engaging communities that I have ever visited. Nashville is a beautiful, a lovely city, and the countryside around it is fertile. It grows good crops. It grows big trees—it grows big men. Every time I go to Nashville I go to the Hermitage. I see that firm, stout, strong home of the great Andrew Jackson. I see the great and strong trees that grow on its lawns and up and down the highways—strength, character—even in trees and in the countryside. That neighborhood never reared, never nurtured, or never gave to America a greater and a finer soul than that of PERCY PRIEST. I shall miss him because his friendship was an enriching treasure to everyone to whom he ever gave it. I shall, with his loved ones, miss him terribly and always.

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Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Williams].

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the late and beloved PERCY PRIEST possessed all of the qualities of a godly man. Unpretentious and self-effacing, PERCY PRIEST was a man of deep religious convictions. PERCY PRIEST lived his religion, and always walked with his God.

There is little that can be said about PERCY PRIEST that has not already been said, and certainly I am at a loss for words and phrases with which to express my feeling over his loss.

But, I would like to say this—and perhaps this expresses it better than anything else that I might say—PERCY PRIEST was the kind of man that I would like to have my sons grow up to be. I shall always cherish his memory.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. Rogers].

Mr. ROGERS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that we are here today talking about a man who contributed so much to this Nation, and who would have meant so much in the future. All of us are sad that he is gone.

I do not think it would be possible to talk about this situation without realizing the fact that America has produced very few men equal to PERCY PRIEST. All human beings have shortcomings, and I am sure PERCY PRIEST had some shortcomings, but the good points of that man so far overshadowed any bad points he may have had that they faded into such insignificance that I never noticed them.

The only thing that worried me about PERCY PRIEST was that he was so kind that I was afraid people were going to take advantage of him. It was my honor to serve on the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce under him as chairman. I do not know of any man that I have ever taken such a liking to as I did PERCY PRIEST. Every move that he made confirmed that first decision.

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I never had a family tree, but I have known that many of my ancestors came from that part of Tennessee that PERCY PRIEST came from. If I ever have a family tree developed, I shall pray to God that PERCY PRIEST turns up as one of my kinfolks. He is the kind of man I would like to be kin to.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Smith].

Mr. SMITH of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, we all know of the great contributions that PERCY PRIEST made to our country through his labors here as an untiring worker in the House of Representatives for so long a time. All of us viewed him as one of the real statesmen that this body has contributed to the Nation. These tributes that have been paid this afternoon and many others that were silently or less formally voiced when we heard about his untimely death, are primarily because we all knew that he was without pretense or self-righteousness a good man.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. Roberts].

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, as has been said this afternoon, words are very feeble instruments to use in trying to express one's appreciation for the life of PERCY PRIEST. It is hard to add much to the beautiful tributes that have been paid him this afternoon; however I am grateful for the honor of joining my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt sympathy at this loss to his family, to his State, and to this great Republic.

I knew PERCY PRIEST quite well, having served on the committee with him for the past six years. He was my chairman, not only of the full committee, but he was chairman of a subcommittee on which I think he preferred to serve, because he loved the work of the Subcommittee on Health and Science.

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Monuments to his memory, lasting forever, are to be found in expanded health services, medical research, a national nurses' program, the Salk vaccine, mental health legislation, and generally in every field for the prevention of disease and for improving the health and welfare of the people of America.

I have seen him in many situations which, if handled by a man of less caliber, might not have resulted in the public good that his handling brought. I have always known him to be completely fair. He was a Democrat in every sense of the word, but he was fair to our colleagues on the other side. He was a man of extremely fine character. He was friendly and courteous. I do not think he ever saw anything bad in any person. He always looked for the good.

He will be missed as few men who have served in the House of Representatives.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. Younger].

Mr. YOUNGER. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my own personal tribute on the life of PERCY PRIEST. I concur in all that has been said and am firm in the conviction that no one is more deserving of the fine tributes that have been paid to a friend this afternoon than was PERCY PRIEST. I am also convinced that no one in war or peace ever more truly gave his life in the service of his country than did PERCY PRIEST, and I just want to add that my own life is enriched by the fact that I had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. Boykin].

Mr. BOYKIN. Mr. Speaker, I did not get to hear all that Speaker Sam Rayburn said, but I will read it all tomorrow, because I know how he loved PERCY PRIEST.

I met PERCY down in Tennessee when we met our leaders there. He was just as busy as he could be and just working

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for everybody, and he just looked like he owned all of Tennessee and he wanted to be sure that all of us had the best of care.

He was one of the finest men I have ever known in all my life. I think it is the worst thing that ever happened to all of us here when he left us, but I think it was the best thing that ever happened to him, for I know he is up in Heaven, where we all hope to meet him someday.

I can see PERCY down here in the well of the House singing When It's Springtime in the Rockies with Sam Rayburn sitting up there waiting to dismiss us as we were ending the session. And then we gave Sam a big party down on the river on a boat, Bud Delano's boat. He is gone and he is up there with PERCY now. And I will never forget the many, many songs PERCY sang and led us in. I have a recording of it, and a copy of it has been sent to Sam Rayburn so he can hear what he had to say about one of the greatest men in the world.

There never has been and never will be a finer man in the United States or anywhere else than PERCY PRIEST. Of course, we are all going to miss him, but we will all get a chance to see him again, because we are going to work and get a little closer together here, and we will see him up there where he has gone, and we will all be praying that he is right there and will be waiting for us.

And we just want to say, "God bless his loved ones he left behind." And God bless every one of you here. You have said so many wonderful things about our beloved friend, PERCY PRIEST, one of the greatest men I have ever known. He was a thoroughbred here, and I know he will be a thoroughbred there.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished Delegate from Alaska [Mr. Bartlett].

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, it was 12 years ago this month, my first month here, that I first met PERCY PRIEST. As so many have done before and as so many did after, I went

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to him for assistance. He gave it freely and understandingly. He was very helpful to me then, as he was on so many occasions afterward.

PERCY PRIEST's record as a legislator was outstanding. His contributions to his district, to his State, and to the Nation were many, and some were of a high order of importance. But, in my opinion, it was the other qualities which have been alluded to here this afternoon by other speakers which set PERCY PRIEST apart and which will cause his memory to live in the hearts of all of us who knew him. I refer to his great human qualities. He was a fine man. I admired him and I respected him. I considered him a friend.

All of us will deeply miss him. My sincerest sympathy goes to his widow and his daughter and all those close to him.

Mr. JUDD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COOPER. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. JUDD. Mr. Speaker, on all occasions like this it is usual to use superlatives in paying tribute to a departed colleague. We are moved to say the very best when a person whom we have known and are close to is taken from us. But the thing that troubles me today is that there are no superlatives adequate to describe this truly fine man, PERCY PRIEST. Some words have lost part of their strength by use for men who were indeed good and able, but still of lesser stature than PERCY PRIEST. Even the superlatives fail us when we try to express what we who had the privilege of working with and knowing so godly a man felt toward him. As a legislator, he was capable, smart, able to grasp difficult situations and deal with them effectively. He had no superior in this House. When it came to his ability to include within the circle of his friends and loved ones every person of whatever rank or station or color or party, I think I have never known his equal.

He was a man of kindness and true nobility of character. Along with his steadfastness of purpose went an unfailing cheerfulness, even gaiety. He was strong, but always with

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gentleness. No one could talk with PERCY PRIEST, or even meet him casually, without feeling better. The flowers seemed to bloom more brightly and people smiled when PERCY spoke to them as he went by.

His passing is, of course, a great loss to our country, as well as to his State and to his party. But to everyone who knew PERCY PRIEST, it is, first of all, a personal loss—as if one of his own immediate loved ones had been taken.

The best tribute we can pay to his memory is not with halting words; it is to try, with our more limited capabilities, to emulate him. I think we can hear his Master saying to us, "Go and do thou likewise."

My very deepest sympathy goes to his wife and family.

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COOPER. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the distinguished Member from Tennessee [Mr. Cooper] for yielding to me so that I might add a few brief words of tribute to the memory of Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, late a Representative from the State of Tennessee.

It was a rather unique privilege and pleasure for me to be closely associated with PERCY PRIEST and to serve under him on the great House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of which he was chairman during the 84th Congress. When I first came to Congress in the very last days of the 83d Congress, PERCY PRIEST was one of the first Members of Congress from outside my own State of Georgia whom it was my pleasure and my privilege to meet. At that time it was reasonably certain he would assume the chairmanship of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce when the 84th Congress convened. In his office I expressed to him the hope that I might be selected to serve on his committee under his chairmanship. Fortunately for me, at least, I was selected to serve on that committee. I feel I received great and wonderful benefits from my service

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on that committee under that great Christian man, that great American, the late Representative from the Fifth District of Tennessee.

He was the most generous man in his contacts with the younger Members of Congress that I have ever known. He was indeed a source of true inspiration to every one of us, young and old alike, who were privileged to serve with him and to call him our colleague. He truly exemplified in his daily life, and a noble life it was, the thought which prompted some unknown author to write these words:

I shall not pass this way again. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I may show to any human being, or any happiness that I may scatter along the road of life to my fellow men, let me do it now. Let me not defer it nor neglect it, let me not put it off until next year, next month, next week or even until tomorrow, for I shall not pass this way again.

I think that by his life and his example he made his community of Nashville, Davidson County, Tenn., his congressional district, and this body in which we served together a better place because of his having been a member of that community in which he lived and in this House of Representatives in which he served. Along with the gentleman from Tennessee and others gathered here this afternoon I journeyed to Nashville, Tenn., last fall to attend his funeral rites. I have never seen a more genuine feeling of sorrow and of respect and of love than was displayed in the capital city of Tennessee: People from all walks of life, people literally by the thousands, gathered to solemnly, respectfully, and reverently pay their respects to him whose soul had drifted to the world beyond. Everyone there was unanimous in their love and respect for him who had recently departed this life. Every one of us there, I think, took renewed hope and inspiration, indeed encouragement, for the life which remains to us here and for the eternity which is to follow in the hope that we might live our lives so as to command the respect and friendship of our fellow man as PERCY PRIEST did. I join

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with the others who have preceded me this afternoon in extending my deepest and sincerest sympathies to Mrs. Priest and her little daughter.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Bass].

Mr. BASS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, by way of preface to my own remarks, I would like to say that I have never heard more laudatory terms used about any man than I have for the hour and a half that I have been listening to my colleagues pay tribute to PERCY PRIEST. But, I do not believe that I have heard a single thing that did not come from the hearts of the people who have said them, and every one of them was true.

Mr. Speaker, the personal sadness and deep sense of deprivation which each Member of this body felt upon learning the sad news last fall of the passing of that great and humble servant, PERCY PRIEST, comes to us again today as we strive to put into words the tributes which we hold in our hearts.

I have known good men in my lifetime, Mr. Speaker, but I believe none more transcendentally captured the essence of true goodness and Christian stewardship than PERCY PRIEST. It falls within the privilege of most of us to sometime perform an act of generosity or selfless service. The privilege seemed to come to PERCY PRIEST more often than to others of his fellow men—and I have wondered if that were not because PERCY PRIEST seemed to seek out in his quiet, gentle way means of making opportunities for service come to him. I believe that it was, Mr. Speaker, such was part of his life of devoted Christian service—looking for the opportunities to serve and seeking out ways in which he could perform a helpful task.

We memorialize the great and powerful in marble. Such as PERCY PRIEST can only be enshrined in hearts.

JAMES PERCY PRIEST was born in the small community of Carter's Creek, in Maury County, in the Sixth Congressional

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District, which I am privileged to represent. He also lived in the small community of Theta, in Maury County, where I lived and was privileged to know him first some 25 years ago. Although I was young at the time, I learned to love PERCY PRIEST because of his complete goodness and his unselfish attitude toward his fellow. At that early time of his life his unswerving devotion to high Christian principles was already apparent to those who knew him. This lasting and growing characteristic of PERCY was a thing that made people refer to him as one of God's chosen people.

He was educated in the public schools of Maury County and, later, aided by his own determined efforts, attended Tennessee State Teachers College, at Murfreesboro, and Peabody College for Teachers at Nashville, and the University of Tennessee, at Knoxville.

Six of his early years, following the completion of his education, were spent in the schoolrooms of his native State. His departure from the schoolroom, where he was a true teacher of the youth of his State, was a great loss, but it was a distinguished gain for the high profession of journalism when his path led to the hurly-burly of the city room of the Nashville Tennessean.

And while the Nation profited richly when his fellow citizens of Davidson County, Tenn., urged upon him the higher service as a Member of Congress it was journalism's loss when he laid down his pen and came to Washington.

PERCY PRIEST's service in the Nation's Capital is well known, and a repetition here would add no luster to his record. I can only say from a heart that would emulate him if it could that he served his constituency, his party, his Nation, and his God with able devotion and with a dedication which, we all recognize, contributed in great measure to the decline of his never robust health.

We loved PERCY PRIEST, we revered him, and I think we may say we envied the quiet confidence and containment which his Christian conscience and his noble spirit gave him.

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This son of Tennessee has left behind him the deep respect and affection of many, many friends—many of whom he knew personally but vast thousands of whom were his friends only through admiration of his devoted service and Christian character. He was a worthy son of Tennessee and a worthy son of our Nation—the humble, Christian strength and fortitude of our pioneer fathers found a noble and worthy son in JAMES PERCY PRIEST, whom we mourn.

God's Kingdom is a richer place with PERCY PRIEST there.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana [Mr. Beamer].

Mr. BEAMER. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee for 6 years, I not only knew but respected J. PERCY PRIEST. As a chairman, he was one of the fairest and most generous men that I ever knew. On our committee, there did not seem to be a political division under his leadership. Rather, there seemed to be a desire to consider legislation on its merit and on its value to the community at large.

His Christian leadership was an inspiration to those who knew him and it also won the respect of his friends.

A long time ago, Shakespeare referred to life in the following words:

Out, out, brief candle. Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

The life of PERCY PRIEST proved the fallacy of the statement of the Bard of Avon. His life was one of peace and offering. It has brought memories which are shared by his colleagues and all who knew him.

I join his many friends who today express sympathy to his family, and pay tribute to a noble character.

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Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. Morris].

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly with all of the wonderful tributes that have been paid to our late colleague, J. PERCY PRIEST.

I wish to say that when I came here as a freshman Member of the House the beloved PERCY PRIEST helped me personally in so many, many ways. He was so rich in experience then and he was so kindly disposed that I always enjoyed asking him for help because I knew that he gave it from a contrite and humble heart and always with a desire and a disposition to help me personally and all others with whom he came in contact.

In addition to his great, outstanding and distinguished service here as a Member of this Congress and as a servant of our Nation, I wish in these few words, in this very brief statement, to point out one thing in particular that I believe has not up to this point been emphasized.

PERCY PRIEST loved to sing, as much as any person I ever knew in my life. He had a most remarkable tenor voice. His singing has been mentioned but I want to emphasize it for just a very few moments, and I shall conclude.

It was my honor, my privilege, and my great pleasure to appear with PERCY PRIEST, the gentleman from Arkansas, Oren Harris, and the gentleman from Texas, Frank Wilson, a former Member of this House, on several occasions, two of which as I recall, were on Ted Mack's program in New York, as a public service for the blood bank and two here in Washington for similar purposes. We appeared as a quartet from this body. I want to say to you distinguished colleagues who are here today that with that wonderful voice and personality of his it was one of the most pleasurable moments of my life to see him in rare good tune on those occasions.

I have seen him doing much hard drudgery work here in Congress, and keeping a song in his heart and on his lips

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even then; but at the end of the day when the labors of the day had been finished and he was able to relax just a little bit and enjoy harmonizing with the rest of us, I believe I have never seen a happier man in my life.

May God rest his soul as a great Christian gentleman and as one who has enriched the lives of all of us and of this great Nation.

This little jingle I give because PERCY liked it very much, and to my mind it fits PERCY as well as any person I have ever known in my life.

If a bit of sunshine hits you,
After passing of the cloud,
If a fit of laughter gets you
And your spine is feeling proud;
Don't forget to up and fling it
At some soul who's feeling blue,
For the minute that you fling it,
It's a boomerang to you.

That is why, in my judgment, PERCY had a song in his heart and on his lips always, because he continually was flinging sunshine on others, and it rebounded back on him.

I extend to his wife and family my most sincere sympathy.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. Andrews].

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, one of the first Members I met when I came to Congress in 1944 was PERCY PRIEST. I never served with a finer man than he. He was my friend and I enjoyed his friendship through the years.

PERCY PRIEST possessed what I consider are the essential qualifications of a good public servant. First and foremost, he was honest; second, he was able; third, he had courage, and above all he was sincere.

I shall miss him, and I extend to his lovely wife my heartfelt sympathy.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, PERCY PRIEST was a great American and his memory will linger long in the halls

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of Congress. There was not a contemptible thought in his whole makeup but he was always sincere and honest in what he thought and did. His sense of humor and his ideas of companionship were gentle but lasting and he had many friends among those he associated with. In addition he was a man of ability with a deep sense of loyalty to the highest ideals of public service.

Such a character makes life a better place for all of us. It drives away doubts and cynicism, it inspires with a new zeal for service and it strengthens and renews our faith. The times we live in demand men with the principles that PERCY PRIEST had and while he will be sorely missed he has left us the example by which we may attain the true and the good.

My sincere sympathies go out to his family and loved ones and may they be comforted by the loving thoughts and prayers of his many friends.

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Speaker, I returned to Washington with a saddened heart at the thought that our distinguished and beloved colleague, PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee, would not be here to greet us as he used to do so faithfully at the beginning of a new session.

Mr. Speaker, I came to this Chamber for the first time on January 3, 1949. One of the very first to greet me and to offer me his assistance and help was our late friend and colleague, PERCY PRIEST. From that day onward, I regarded him as a friend in the truest sense of the word.

Until the advent of the 84th Congress, when he assumed the chairmanship of one of the great committees of this House, PERCY served as whip on our side of the aisle. I worked closely with him in this respect since the leadership on our side appointed me as regional whip for the Rocky Mountain States. In his dealings with his colleagues, PERCY was always most courteous, considerate, and helpful.

The State of Tennessee—indeed the Nation—has lost a great public servant—a true champion of the people's inter-

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ests. He led and participated in many a legislative battle to obtain congressional approval of legislation that would enhance the health and welfare of our people.

Mr. Speaker, those of us who had the privilege and the opportunity to have known him and to have worked with him are better for it and we shall always remember and cherish such memories. To his family, to his district, and to the people of his home State of Tennessee, I wish to offer my heartfelt sympathy in their and our great loss.

Mr. LANE. Mr. Speaker, PERCY PRIEST has been called to his heavenly reward.

He served in this House for close to 16 years, and so he became a part of our own lives and our own experience. Although he has gone, he lives on in our fond memories of him.

Teacher, newspaperman, Congressman.

Devoted to his State and to his country.

His conscientious dedication to his duties earned the respect of all his colleagues. The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee will miss its able chairman.

Our regard for him which we put off saying during his busy days among us we now express in tribute to the memory of him, and for the consolation of those loved ones who survive him.

We who enjoyed working with him were impressed with the quality of his mind and character. And his many kindnesses to ourselves and to others.

The memory of good men comforts us with the faith that death is not an end but a beginning. As we recall PERCY PRIEST when he was active among us we know that he has just gone on ahead and that someday we will meet him again.

Meanwhile, we mourn this separation from our friend. And, in eulogizing his personal worth and his distinguished services to the Nation, we keep him close to our hearts.

May God grant him eternal peace and happiness.

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Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues in the House of Representatives this moment in which honor is being paid to the memory of the late PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee.

Many fine and beautiful things have been said here today about our departed colleague. It would be difficult to exaggerate the virtues of PERCY PRIEST. He was fair, clean, wholesome, a Christian gentleman, truly one of God's noblemen to the marrow of his bones. We do ourselves honor when we pay tribute to the memory of our departed friend.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I am sure every Member of this House of Representative feels as I do—a very keen personal loss in the passing of PERCY PRIEST. There have been few to surpass him in ability, energy, devotion to duty, and his many contributions to his constituency, his State, our Nation, and the Congresses in which he so ably served since he was first elected in 1940 to the 77th Congress.

As an able and effective Representative of his district, he was respected and admired by all who knew him; as Democratic whip for many years, PERCY PRIEST performed outstanding service; as chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, PERCY PRIEST did a wonderful job which we all recognize as outstanding in its accomplishment.

PERCY PRIEST's life was a full and generous one, marked with success all along the way. One of the greatest tributes I can pay is that he will be sincerely missed by all who knew him. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Mr. WIGGLESWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the House in deep regret in the passing of our colleague, PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee.

He served his fellow citizens as a teacher, as an editor, and as a Member of this House for 16 years.

Those who served with him will recall his ability as Democratic whip and as chairman of the important Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

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I served with him at one time on a special investigating committee of this House. I have always valued his friendship.

I know that his many friends on both sides of the aisle join in deepest sympathy to his family and those close to him.

Mr. DURHAM. Mr. Speaker, JAMES PERCY PRIEST ranked among the best. A model of dignity and propriety, he set an example for all the Members of this body to emulate. Always courteous, kindly, and cooperative, he made one proud to be an associate of his. He was a loyal man to all his friends and associates and to his own profession in the field of journalism.

PERCY PRIEST has left us, but he left a memorial to himself and to Christianity here in the Capitol of the United States. He was a prime mover in, and probably contributed more than any other individual to the opening of the Prayer Room in order that the Christian influence, which he so well exemplified, could continue to grow. He believed deeply and sincerely that no nation of people can survive without spiritual motivation. His religion he lived from day to day. It is my fervent prayer that rising among us and coming to us here in these halls there may be many more men of the type, character, and ability of PERCY PRIEST.

Mr. ZABLOCKI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of the former chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the late Representative PERCY PRIEST.

It has been my privilege to serve with Mr. PRIEST since my election to the House of Representatives. He was an outstanding legislator, and a capable representative of his district and his State.

As the chairman of an important standing committee of the House, Mr. PRIEST had earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues. His judicious bearing, his wide experience, and his gentlemanly conduct served as a splendid example to his younger colleagues.

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Chairman PRIEST will be missed in these halls, and I am certain that he will be missed even more by the people of the Fifth District of the State of Tennessee, who selected him for 16 years to represent them in the Congress of the United States.

I want to express my deep sympathy to his widow and his family. May they derive some consolation from the thought that we all share in their deep loss.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, all these 10 years that it was my privilege and exceeding honor to be a Member of this House with Hon. PERCY PRIEST, the late distinguished Representative from Tennessee, he was always most considerate and generous with his counsel solicited by me; he was always square as a box on all of his dealings with me and I recognized him as a living, daily illustration of what a man could attain to as he daily sought to live a Christian life and, of course, we all knew PERCY made no bones about the fact he did so endeavor to live. I concur in each and every word of praise and appreciation that has been made about him on this floor by all of you colleagues who have preceded me. I especially appreciated the appraisal of him by our distinguished Speaker, Hon. Sam Rayburn. It is crystal clear to me, growing out of 10 years of service with him, and now that he has been so untimely removed from our midst, that his life, and such lives as his, not only benefit those of us who have the pleasure of associating day by day, but leave an indelible print upon us after they pass on which makes us better men and truer representatives of our American way of life as result of their having served on this earth. This is what PERCY PRIEST's life will be sure to do for me. Mrs. Doyle and I extend our understanding sympathy to his widow and daughter and those of his immediate family.

Mr. BENNETT of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our country is stronger and better because PERCY PRIEST served it so well in Congress. His State and congressional district were helped

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immeasurably by his efforts. But his passing is felt by all of us not simply because of his great deeds but also because we each lost a close personal friend. The gift of friendship is a wonderful one and no one here ever blessed more of his fellows with it than PERCY PRIEST. He was an inspiration to all of us to do our very best at all times, because he set us a perfect example.

Mr. DAGUE. Mr. Speaker, it seems that this Chamber, and indeed this historic edifice, has not been the same since the word came that our beloved colleague, PERCY PRIEST, had been called to eternal rest.

Shortly after coming to Congress I developed a close friendship for PERCY, and the high regard engendered by his heart-warming personality quickly earned for him a place in my affections and esteem which has not been matched among my many valued friends in this body. PERCY PRIEST is one of the few men I have encountered who acted out his profession of service to his fellow men and who, by his daily example, taught us the practicality of the Golden Rule. Like all of those who watched PERCY during floor debate or who marvelled at his restraint and forbearance during that period when he fulfilled the arduous duties of majority whip, I can only say that here was a man who believed in brotherhood and who lived by his deepest convictions.

I wish that I were as sure of a place beyond the horizon as I am of that which I am persuaded the the Master has reserved for this sweet and lovable friend. May an all-wise providence extend to his loved ones the strength and courage they will need so sorely as they face a future made dark by his untimely passing.

Mr. ELLIOTT. Mr. Speaker, I had many special ties with our departed friend and colleague, J. PERCY PRIEST.

As has so well been said this afternoon, PERCY PRIEST was able, sincere, understanding, religious, diligent, dependable, and true. He was a leader, and yet he had the quality of

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making one feel that he went along as a companion rather than as being led.

When I came to the 81st Congress, PERCY PRIEST was one of the first people with whom I became acquainted. I early became his fast friend, and he mine. Throughout our 8 years of service together in the United States House of Representatives, there was never a time when I did not feel that I could consult with PERCY PRIEST as a friend.

PERCY PRIEST was a fine party leader. He was one of the great Democratic whips. He possessed the ability to reconcile conflicts in the field of the nonessentials, yet he was broad gaged enough to recognize and respect differences of viewpoint in matters of great import. I do not think I ever saw a man with a greater or more healthy respect for an opposing viewpoint than that possessed by PERCY PRIEST.

PERCY PRIEST and I often talked about my native county of Franklin in northwest Alabama. We talked about the beauty of the city of Russellville, Ala. He knew many people there, because Russellville was the home of his devoted wife, Mildred Noland Priest.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to describe the value to free people of having men like PERCY PRIEST with the ability to iron out the complexities of congressional action by personality, by persuasion, by a deep sense of what is right, and by the respect and the affection which they command from their fellows. These great qualities which PERCY PRIEST had in abundance will be sorely missed by all Members. They will be missed by all the people of our Nation.

As I contemplate the life of PERCY PRIEST, I feel the challenge of it.

Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house where gods may dwell,
Beautiful, entire, and clean.

—Longfellow.

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

Mr. HORAN. Mr. Speaker, for some 10 years I had the privilege of having an office across the hall from that of PERCY PRIEST.

There is a quiet eloquence in a congressional office. Somehow the very character of the Member whose name is on the door is reflected in the demeanor, the industry, the cheerfulness, the loyalty, and that inscrutable quality we sometimes call spirit of his staff. This subtle and quiet eloquence lived in and radiated from the office of PERCY PRIEST.

His devotion to his district, to the House of Representatives, and to the Nation—as all have so well attested—leave to his widow and to his family a legacy beyond price.

Mr. LOSER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to include in the Appendix of the Record a resolution adopted by the Tennessee Nurses' Association expressing sympathy and condolence to the family of the late Congressman J. PERCY PRIEST and requesting that the resolution be made a part of the Record:

TRIBUTE TO MR. PRIEST

RESOLUTION

The members of the Tennessee Nurses' Association, now in convention assembled, wish to pay tribute to the late Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, Congressman from the Fifth District of the State of Tennessee and chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Welfare of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

In his death the nursing profession throughout the entire country has lost a sympathetic and understanding friend whose knowledge of the health needs of the American people was profound.

His untiring efforts in behalf of health and welfare legislation most recently culminated in passage of Public Law 911, which especially enables nurses to increase their contribution to the health of the Nation.

VIOLET M. CROOK, R. N.,

President, Tennessee Nurses' Association.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., *October 18, 1956.*

Mr. LOSER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to include in the Record a resolution adopted by the Democratic Women's Club of Davidson County expressing sympathy and condolence

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

to the family of the late Congressman J. PERCY PRIEST, and requesting that the resolution be made a part of the Record:

Whereas the untimely death of Congressman J. PERCY PRIEST shocked and grieved not only the people of his constituency, the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, but the Nation as a whole; and

Whereas Congressman PRIEST has served the people of his district and the Nation for a decade and a half as a conscientious, loyal, and dedicated Democratic Party leader; and

Whereas Congressman PRIEST's devotion to duty and service was manifested by his continuous and close interest in the welfare of the people of his district; and

Whereas this devotion and interest was manifested by his sponsoring legislation for the health and welfare of the people not only of his district but for the Nation as a whole; and

Whereas Congressman PRIEST numbered many outstanding achievements among his accomplishments such as House whip, chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, and numerous service committees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Women's Club of Davidson County go on record in expressing their sympathy and condolences to the family of Congressman PRIEST; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Member of Congress from this congressional district requesting that it be made a part of the Congressional Record when appropriate memorial services are held for Congressman PRIEST in the Congress.

Mr. LOSER. Mr. Speaker, the General Assembly of Tennessee adopted House Joint Resolution No. 22 as a memorial and tribute to the life and public service of the late J. PERCY PRIEST, United States Representative from the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, who served in this great body for almost 16 years and distinguished himself as a statesman and public servant.

Under leave to extend my remarks, I include this very fine resolution in the Congressional Record:

House Joint Resolution 22

MEMORIAL

Whereas on the morning of October 12, 1956, there were tears in the eyes and a quiver in the voice of the Honorable Zeke W. Johnson, Jr., Sergeant at Arms in the United States House of Repre-

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

sentatives, as he called the Capitol Police Corps together and solemnly announced: "Lower the flag to half-staff, PERCY PRIEST is dead"; and

Whereas on that same morning, the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County, Tenn., on the way to their chosen work, observed that flags at Federal, State, county, and city public buildings were flying at half-staff, and later found out that said flags were flying at half-staff out of respect to Representative PERCY PRIEST, whom Almighty God in his infinite wisdom had seen fit to call home from these earthly portals at 2:15 a. m. on this morning; and

Whereas the entire populace of the State of Tennessee, as a result, became cognizant of the fact that not only had they lost a good and faithful servant, but that each individual citizen in his own peculiar rights had lost a true and devoted friend; and

Whereas only a short time back, and on December 14, 1954, Representative PRIEST was invited by the Nashville Civitan Club to deliver a speech, but upon his arrival was precluded from this task due to the fact that it was the purpose of this club to instead honor the said PERCY PRIEST and as he sat for an hour, between smiles and tears, his life moved before him, with scores of old friends and neighbors crowding by to remind him that said life had been an unselfish one and full of human warmth and Christianity; and

Whereas on December 16, 1954, only 2 days after this tribute by the Civitan Club, and almost 2 years prior to the death of the Honorable PERCY PRIEST, an editorial appeared in the December 16, 1954, edition of the Nashville Tennessean, which editorial is so appropriate it is thought that same should be reproduced in part for the benefit of this general assembly, and which is as follows:

"Perhaps it is enough to say that the life which passed in review before him—his own life—has been a good one from its early years to the rewarding maturity. It has been a good and unselfish life, savored with genuine humility; but there has also been an unwavering courage to stand for that which is right when the example of spiritual strength was most needed.

"The qualities which made PERCY PRIEST a good schoolteacher, and later an able newspaperman, have served him well as a maker of laws in the Nation's Capitol. The friends of old, he has maintained, and always he has gone on to win new ones. In the face of national emergencies he has shouldered heavy responsibilities and worked with diligence and patriotism for his country's welfare.

"One of the finest things he has done is to set a standard official conduct which, if taken as a guide by all, would do away with the need of a revised code of ethics in the conduct of congressional business.

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"For many years PERCY PRIEST has been a member of the Nashville Civitan Club, and it was fitting that these associates should honor him so appropriately by turning back the pages of his life to reveal not only 'the things I might have done,' but the things indelibly written to the credit of the honored guest and associate. For all, it was a happy occasion."

Whereas Mr. PRIEST was a native Tennessean, having been born at Carters Creek in Maury County, on April 1, 1900, son of the late George M. and Harriet Hastings Priest; and

Whereas he attended Maury County public schools and Central High School at Columbia, then Middle Tennessee State College, and later the University of Tennessee, and Peabody College; and

Whereas as a student he was deeply interested in oratory, debates, dramatics, and history, all of which were to make a substantial contribution to his career; and

Whereas in his youth he knew the rigors of farm and country life, and often rode horseback the 15 miles between his farm home and the high school at Columbia, and other times hitched a horse to a buggy, or rode on a little mixed train on the Middle Tennessee Railroad; and

Whereas after ending Middle Tennessee State College he taught in Maury County 2 years and then became a teacher and athletic coach in the high school at Culleoka and, in all, was a school-teacher for a period of 7 years, during which time he took summer courses at the University of Tennessee and Peabody College; and

Whereas he was associated with the Nashville Tennessean from May 1926 until September 1940, advancing to State news editor, city editor, and managing editor, later becoming the newspaper's roving reporter and writing human-interest stories based on his travels throughout the State; and

Whereas it has been so truthfully stated that it was as an individual rather than a public official that JAMES PERCY PRIEST was best known to thousands, with no request from any individual being too small, nor any person being too unimportant to get his attention, and with his greatness being attributed to "a simple faith in God"; and

Whereas Mr. PRIEST, during his lifetime, was quoted as saying:

"Whatever my achievements may be, I shall look back—not on these achievements, but on the warm personal friendships I have made along the way.

"In the discharge of my duties, I have faced every issue frankly, and have acted forthrightly, without dodging, straddling or equivocation. I have not followed the way of expediency to advance my own political personal ends"; and

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

Whereas in view of the entire life portrayed by JAMES PERCY PRIEST, the above excerpts being only a sketch of the fullness of same; and

Whereas the people of this great State are always cognizant of the true virtues of life and eager to commemorate for the fulfillment of said virtues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 80th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee (the Senate concurring), That this tribute to this outstanding Tennessean be expressed by this joint resolution, and that as a body we extend to his bereaved family our sympathy and sincere condolence in the great loss sustained by them and by all the people of Tennessee; be it further

Resolved, That the 80th general assembly go on record as being in support of the idea first proposed by the Reverend Harold D. Gregory, superintendent of missions, Nashville Baptist Association, with said idea later being carried into effect by the introduction of a resolution in the Congress of the United States by the Honorable Carlton Loser, whereby the new permanent veterans' hospital at Nashville be named in honor of the late JAMES PERCY PRIEST; be it further

Resolved, That the clerk be directed to prepare and forward a copy of this resolution to each Mrs. J. Percy Priest and their 4-year-old daughter, Harriet Frances Priest; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to each Member of Congress and each United States Senator serving the State of Tennessee; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be mailed to the President of the United States, the Honorable Dwight D. Eisenhower, who stated after the death of Congressman PRIEST:

"The Congress of the United States and the people of the Nation have lost a valuable Member, in the sudden passing of JAMES PERCY PRIEST, of Tennessee."

Adopted February 21, 1957.

JAMES L. BOMOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Concurred in March 14, 1957.

JARED MADDEX,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved March 19, 1957.

FRANK G. CLEMENT,

Governor.

Mr. McDONOUGH. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives will not seem the same without the genial, gentle PERCY PRIEST among us.

JAMES PERCY PRIEST

His untimely passing is a great loss to all of us and to his State and the Nation.

I enjoyed his friendship and association very much and especially his jovial attitude and his vigorous leadership in the singing parties we always have on the day of adjournment.

I have never seen anyone who enjoyed singing and leading a chorus more than PERCY PRIEST.

He was a man of great spiritual vigor also. He believed in Christianity and practiced it.

He was a fine legislator and had the courage of his convictions.

My sincere sympathy and condolence goes to his wife and family.

Mrs. BOLTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to PERCY PRIEST. I was greatly shocked and saddened when I heard of his untimely passing last October.

No one was more kindly and thoughtful and courteous than PERCY PRIEST. I have had the privilege of working with him for many years as my nursing bills were considered by his committee and subcommittee, and always he was very helpful and considerate, giving his time and patience unstintingly to the examination and study of the many facets of the problem of the adequate care of our sick. The Health Amendments Act of 1956—Public Law 911—is on the statute books today largely because of his love of people, his consciousness of their needs and his responsibility to them. The people of the Fifth District of Tennessee at all times claimed his special interest and he had been privileged to serve them continuously for 16 years. But he also had a wider vision, a vision that enabled him to see and understand national and international problems.

Devoted to his country, to his family, and to his church, he was in every sense a Christian gentleman. I recall how we all enjoyed PERCY's singing and his rare capacity to start everyone else singing. It was my privilege to play the ac-

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companiment for the quartet of which PERCY was a member, here in the House for several memorial services. We who had the pleasure of knowing this warm, friendly man miss him very much. To his lovely wife and little daughter we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. HAYS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with deep appreciation to the beautiful tributes to our friend. The admiration and affection which the Members entertained for PERCY PRIEST knew no bounds. He was indeed one of the wisest and best ever to serve in these halls. The news of his death brought great personal sorrow to me. For my country I mourned the loss of his statesmanship, for myself the loss of a loved friend and trusted counselor. Anything that I might say, Mr. Speaker, in tribute to his legislative service would be repetitious. I can only attempt a sincere expression of my grief and an intention to retain in the recesses of memory the splendid example that he constantly set for us.

Undergirding his leadership was an outstanding spiritual philosophy—eloquently described by those who have spoken. It was exhibited without ostentation or display. He was one of the most modest men I ever knew. He exemplified so well the lines of Van Dyke which I heard him apply to a departed colleague, that I wish to conclude with the words which PERCY himself quoted:

Four things a man must learn to do,
If he would keep his purpose true;
To think without confusion clearly,
To act from honest motives purely,
To love his fellow man sincerely,
To trust in God and heaven securely.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 26 minutes p. m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Wednesday, January 16, 1957, at 12 o'clock noon.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the Senate

MONDAY, January 7, 1957.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a resolution coming from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The legislative clerk read the resolution (H. Res. 16), as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, a Representative from the State of Tennessee.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. KEFAUVER. Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague [Mr. Gore] and myself, I submit a resolution with respect to the untimely death of Representative J. PERCY PRIEST, late a Representative from the State of Tennessee, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolution will be read.

The resolution (S. Res. 10) was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. J. PERCY PRIEST, late a Representative from the State of Tennessee.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, the Senate, at the conclusion of its business today, take a recess until 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday next.



7/16/57

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Memorial services held in the main



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